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TALKING POINTS

KEY NEXT STEPS ON REGIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE

RELEASED IN FULL 15

- We were extremely disappointed that momentum for holding a regional refugee conference has been lost by failure to hold preparatory meetings in December.
- We continue to be keenly interested in an adequately-planned, seriously-attended, action-oriented conference to take place in Bujumbura as soon as possible in the new year, coordinated so as not to conflict with the planned UNDP roundtable January 17-18 in Geneva.
- We applaud the Government of Burundi's efforts to conceptualize the meeting and agenda.
- We are not necessarily wedded to the idea of sequential meetings and would welcome a plenary working conference even without a preparatory conference.
- The Friends should make parallel demarches on the OAU and on the regional players to make the points that: the critical issues at hand are regional in nature, a regional conference could provide a useful forum, March is categorically too late, friends and donors can only help the affected countries if they cooperate together.

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